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CARELESSNESS IN APPLICANTS FOR REGISTRATION

DEAR EDITOR: In the handling of material concerned in the application of nurses for registration under the waiver, the members of the Board of Nurse Examiners of New York State have been much impressed by certain characteristics found in the filled application forms—some favorable, others unfavorable—of which, among the latter, are found all too frequent evidences of carelessness and a lack of business qualities. The very imperfect manner in which some of the forms have been returned to the department being so pronounced in altogether too large a percentage of these applications, this Board feels justified in making mention of the matter through the pages of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, not that we so much expect to influence the individual nurse, perhaps, as that we hope the attention and interest of those who are training nurses will be fixed upon this, and general sentiment increased against the sending into the department of such material.

The Board feels there should be positive evidence of professional pride on the part of all nurses seeking the benefits of registration, and that every nurse having dealings with the Department of Education should appreciate that that department is receiving impressions of the educational status of the women composing the ranks of our profession through the material sent into its offices.

To illustrate what is being referred to: first, we protest against the department being compelled to write two, three, and even six letters in some cases, in order to secure data as required in the forms issued to each applicant; second, the almost illegible penmanship in some cases; third, the very apparent failure to read directions; and, fourth, the carelessness in the arrangements of answers to questions as given.

Plainly speaking, we often feel that a better argument in support of the contention of the department for higher preliminary educational requirements could scarcely be found than is exhibited by the make-up of some of these application forms which a very young schoolgirl might well be ashamed to send out above her name.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS, New York State.

LINA LIGHTBOURNE, R.N., President.

A NEW FIELD OF WORK FOR GRADUATE NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: There is a new field of woman's work that is just dawning that should interest the graduate nurse—the registered dental nurse, the R.D.N. The idea is about six years old, quite in its swaddling clothes but squalling lustily for recognition. We have all seen the brave little damsel and her "votes for women" on the cover of a popular magazine. That infant is going to win this state and quite fairly too. Let me tell you a little about this other one.

I have followed the articles by eminent dentists in the dental magazines for and against the trained dental nurse, with the keenest concern for some time. The time is at hand when the graduate trained nurse can prove that she can excel in this special work. The work is big, and interesting and remunerative. These dentists need specially trained women to assist them in their work, just as much as surgeons and doctors need the trained medical and surgical nurse. They need women with good training and knowledge sufficient not to usurp any part of the ordinary dental practice. The graduate trained nurse has a splendid